

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-10 ARA-16 EA-11 EUR-25 RSC-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-04 USIA-15 PRS-01

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DRAFTED BY NEA/P:JEBRIGGS

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S/PRS - MR. KING (INFO)

NEA - MR. ATHERTON

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P 181938Z OCT 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO ALL DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR POSTS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT PRIORITY

USDEL SALT TWO GENEVA PRIORITY

UNCLAS STATE 206705

INFORM CONSULS

KUWAIT POUCH MUSCAT, DOHA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING

FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING IS PARTIAL
EXCERPT FROM DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN'S PRESS BRIEFING
OCTOBER 18, 1973:

QUOTE: Q. ON THE DIPLOMATIC SIDE OF THIS, COULD YOU BRING
US UP TO DATE WHETHER THERE HAVE BEEN ANY FURTHER CONTACTS
WITH THE SOVIETS -- PARTICULARLY WHETHER YOU TODAY COULD SAY
THAT ANY PROGRESS IS BEING MADE TOWARD ARRIVING AT SOME KIND
OF A CEASE-FIRE?

A. THE SITUATION IS JUST ABOUT AS I DESCRIBED IT TO YOU

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YESTERDAY. THERE HAS BEEN NO MATERIAL DIFFERENCE IN THE

LAST 24 HOURS.

Q. COULD YOU COMMENT ON THE ACCURACY OF A WHOLE FLURRY OF REPORTS THIS MORNING THAT THE SOVIETS HAVE PROPOSED A PLAN -- ITSELF PROPOSING A RETURN TO THE '67 CEASE-FIRE LINES, AND AN INTERNATIONAL PEACE FORCE MADE UP OF U.S. AND SOVIET OBSERVERS?

A. I CAN NEITHER CONFIRM NOR DENY IT. I JUST DON'T KNOW IT TO BE A FACT.

Q. THERE'S A REPORT TODAY TO THE EFFECT THAT THE ARABS CAME UP WITH FOUR MINISTERS WHO MET WITH THE PRESIDENT, AND DR. KISSINGER HAD A PEACE PLAN OF SOME KIND. CAN YOU DISCUSS THAT FOR US?

A. FRANKLY, NO, BECAUSE THAT IS NOT MY INTERPRETATION OF THE MEETINGS, ALTHOUGH, IN FULL MEASURE THE MIDDLE EAST SITUATION -- BOTH MILITARILY AND DIPLOMATICALLY -- WAS THE TOPIC OF DISCUSSION. BUT IT IS NOT MY IMPRESSION THAT THEY ADVANCED A SPECIFIC FORMULA.

Q. CAN YOU SAY WHETHER THE UNITED STATES HAS CURRENTLY UNDER ACTIVE CONSIDERATION, THE POSSIBILITY OF JOINING IN AN INTERNATIONAL PEACE FORCE IN THE MIDDLE EAST REGION?

A. NO.

Q. IS AN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE UNDER ACTIVE CONSIDERATION?

A. NO.

Q. THERE HAVE BEEN SEVERAL STATEMENTS BY SOME SENATORS THIS MORNING, AND THERE HAS BEEN CONSIDERABLE SPECULATION WHICH SUMS UP TO AN EXPECTATION THAT THERE WILL BE A BREAK IN THE SITUATION IN THE NEXT COUPLE OF DAYS. DO YOU SEE ANY BASIS FOR THIS KIND OF OPTIMISM?

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A. I CAN'T WITH ANY CONFIDENCE, TELL YOU THAT WE ARE IN A POSITION WHERE WE SEE THE OUTCOME AT THIS TIME.

Q. IS THE SOVIET AIRLIFT CONTINUING AT THE SAME RATE THAT YOU DESCRIBED TWO DAYS AGO AS "MASSIVE?"

A. YES.

Q. DOES THE DEPARTMENT HAVE ANY REACTION TO THE ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ARAB OIL PRODUCERS THAT THEY ARE GOING TO BEGIN CUTTING EXPORTS FIVE PERCENT PER MONTH AS LONG AS ISRAEL MAINTAINS ITS OCCUPATION OF THE TERRITORIES?

A. WELL, FIRST, THAT WE ARE CONFIDENT THAT SO FAR AS THE UNITED STATES IS CONCERNED, THAT WE CAN MEET AN EMERGENCY SITUATION IF IT ARISES AS A RESULT OF THAT ANNOUNCED CUTBACK IN PRODUCTION. IT IS NOT CLEAR YET, AT LEAST TO ME, WHAT SPECIFIC QUANTITATIVE IMPACT THAT WILL HAVE AND OVER WHAT PERIOD OF TIME. BUT I HAVE SAID HERE ON A NUMBER OF OCCASIONS THAT SINCE THE OUTBREAK OF FIGHTING, CONTINGENCY PLANNING HAS BEEN UNDERWAY WITHIN THE U.S. GOVERNMENT, CONTINGENCIES THAT PRINCIPALLY ARE DRAWN UP BY GOVERNOR LOVE'S OFFICE, AND THAT WHILE OBVIOUSLY THIS IS A MATTER OF SOME REGRET, WE ARE CONFIDENT THAT THE UNITED STATES HAS THE RESOURCES TO MEET SUCH A CONTINGENCY.

Q. DID THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT CONVEY TO YOU ANY IDEAS ON THE CEASE-FIRE OR A LASTING PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST DURING THE LAST FEW DAYS?

A. WELL, NATURALLY, IN ALL OF THE CONVERSATIONS THAT WE HAVE HAD WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT THEIR VIEWS ON THE FIGHTING, A POSSIBLE CEASE-FIRE, AND HOW YOU GO ON FROM THERE HAVE BEEN A TOPIC OF DISCUSSION. IT IS NOT MY IMPRESSION, HOWEVER, THAT THEY HAVE PUT IN A SINGLE FORMULA ON A PIECE OF PAPER FROM WHICH THEY WOULDN'T MOVE. THAT IS NOT MY IMPRESSION AT ALL.

Q. HAVE THE KISSINGER-DOBRYNIN TALKS GENERATED A PRODUCT THAT COULD BE TAKEN TO EGYPT AND SYRIA FOR CLEARANCE?

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A. NOCOMMENT. END QUOTE. KISSINGER

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